[*Translation*]

New Surface Transport policy

246.SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new surface Transport Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Cut In Sugar export Quotas

247.SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual loss suffered by the Government so far in foreign exchange on account of cut in the preferential sugar export quotas under the Us Sugar Act 1948 and EEC quota;

(b) whether any efforts have been made for the restoration of the sugar Export quotas;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). India had a quota of 25,000 tonnes of sugar to sell to the European Economic Community at guaranteed prices. As India could not fulfil this quota for the delivery period 1980-81 due to drought and other reasons, the EEC withdrew the quota. The quota was re-instituted in 1983 with a quota amount of 10,000 MTs, which is currently in force.

The US import quota of sugar for India in 1991-92 has been fixed at 10,571 MTs (Raw value) as against 16,273 MTs during 1990-91. US fixes sugar import quotas for various countries every year. An important consideration in fixing the quotas is the domestic production of sugar in the United States, which has been fairly high this year. In view of this India's quota has been reduced.

In view of what has been stated above, the question of loss of foreign exchange does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Bank Robberies

248. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of bank robberies have increased this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the loss of life and the amount involved in each case, bank-wise and the manner in which the compensation has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). As per available information, while 169 incidents of robberies/ dacoities took place in public sector banks in the country during the year 1990, there have been only 84 incidents of bank robberies/ dacoities during January to September, 1991.

(c) Information regarding amount involved in bank robberies/dacoities which took place in pubiic sector banks during the period 1.1. 91 to 30.9.91, and the loss of life there in is given in the attached Statement .

As regards payment of compensation, information is being collected.